

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 were presented for examination and were pending in this application. In the latest Office Action, claims 1-6 were rejected. With this amendment, claim 1 is amended, and new claims 7-11 are added. On the basis of the following remarks, consideration of this application and allowance of all pending claims are requested.

Claims 1-6 were rejected as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,278,614 to Beaman et al. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as amended herein, as well as the newly added claims, are both novel and nonobvious over Beaman.

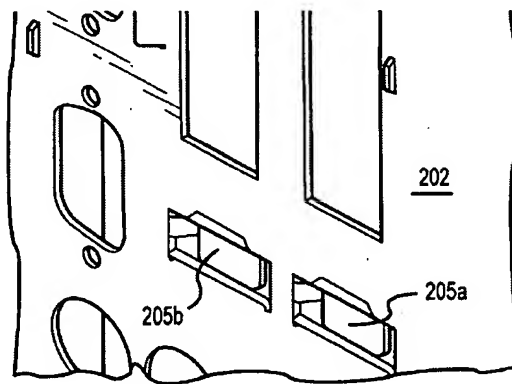
The claimed invention provides for a mechanism by which an interface card can be secured within a computer system while allowing access to the card by an external device through a slot opening in the computer system's chassis. Claim 1, for example, recites:

- 1. A system for securing a card installed within a computer system, the card including a bracket for providing the card with an interface to an external device, the system comprising: a computer chassis with at least one slot opening and a window above the slot opening, the slot opening corresponding to an interface for a card to be installed into the computer system, **the chassis further having a locating plate extending therefrom along at least a portion of an edge of the window;** and a clamp configured to fit over the window of the chassis and press against an extension of the bracket of the card, wherein when the card is installed in the computer system, an extension of the bracket of the card protrudes through the window of the chassis, **and the clamp presses against the extension to secure the card in place between the clamp and the locating plate of the chassis.***

As amended, claim 1 thus recites a locating plate extending from the chassis against which the clamp presses to secure the interface card. The provision of this locating plate on the chassis allows the extension of the interface card to be secured in a "sandwiched" position. Moreover, it provides a backing against which the clamp can press in this securing position. As one of skill in the art can appreciate, this locating plate thus allows the card to be secured more tightly and with more stability than without such a plate.

Beaman does not disclose or suggest a chassis that has a locating plate extending therefrom along at least a portion of an edge of the window. Specifically, Beaman's chassis does not have a plate extending therefrom for securing a card (see Beaman's FIG. 2). Therefore, Beaman cannot secure an interface card by pressing against the extension to secure the card in place between the clamp and the locating plate of the chassis, as claimed. Claim 1 and dependent claims 2-6 are therefore novel over Beaman.

New claim 7 corresponds to originally presented claim 2, which recites that, "when the card is installed, a lower end of the bracket protrudes from an opening in a bottom surface of the chassis." Beaman does not disclose or suggest this limitation. As Beaman's FIG. 5 shows, the lower end of the interface card is passed through a slot (element 205a) formed in a rear panel of the computer chassis. These slots are formed by a tab that has been separated from the chassis and deformed inward to create the slot through which the interface card's bracket fits. For the examiner's convenience, a reproduction of the relevant portion of Beaman's FIG. 5 is shown below.



This slot arrangement for receiving the interface card's bracket is not the simple opening in a bottom surface of the chassis that is claimed in claim 7. This distinction is important, in just one respect because of the additional manufacturing complexity and costs associated with Beaman's chassis. Rather than merely punching a hole through the bottom surface of the chassis (as would

enable the claimed invention), Beaman's chassis must have multiple holes punched therethrough, and the portion of the chassis between the holes must be pressed inward to form a slot to accept an interface card on the side panel of the chassis. Therefore, the claimed invention in claim 7 is not disclosed or made obvious by Beaman. Claim 7 and dependent claims 8-11 are therefore novel over Beaman.

Based on the foregoing, the application is in condition for allowance of all claims, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the examiner believes for any reason direct contact would help advance the prosecution of this case to allowance, the examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,
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